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Venezuelan Nobel Peace Prize winner presents her medal to Trump P-7

Siddhant Chaturvedi and Mrunal Thakur's Do Deewane Seher Mein teaser to release on January 19 P-10



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Upper reaches receive fresh snowfall

As Jammu plains continue to reel under intense cold conditions, the higher reaches of the UT today received fresh snowfall.

While a clear morning and a bright sun greeted Jammuites in the morning, it turned cloudy as the day progressed, further adding to the already cold conditions.

The famous & picturesque tourist spot of Patnitop, which attracts tourists from across the

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Mortar shell found, defused

A mortar shell, which was today recovered in Kashmir's Baramulla district, was later defused by security forces.

According to officials, the shell was recovered during a digging work near an Army unit in Rampur area of Baramulla. Soon thereafter, the area was secured, and police were also informed, officials said.

The shell was later

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QD cell constituted for Budget Session

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 16

The government has constituted a QD Cell in the planning, development & monitoring department for the Budget Session 2026, scheduled to begin from February 2.

An official order issued in this regard says: "Sanction is hereby according to the constitution of QD cell of planning, development & monitoring department for timely preparation & transmission of replies of the current Budget Session to be held from February 2, 2026."

Mohammad Ashraf Mir, director PD&MD, is nomi

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Startup boom propels India to global top 3: Jitendra



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 16

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said India had witnessed a transformational rise in entrepreneurship, with the number of startups growing to over two lakh, making the country the third-largest in the startup ecosystem.

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MC elections

BJP triumphs over Thackerays in Mumbai, trumps Pawars in Pune

MUMBAI, JAN 16: Breaking the nearly three-decade-old dominance of the undivided Shiv Sena, BJP on Friday emerged as the single largest party in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, and also triumphed in Pune, where it made mincemeat of the alliance of NCP factions.

The BJP-led alliance was set to bag around 125 of 227 seats in BMC, which is India's richest civic body, whose budget for 2025-26 is a whopping Rs 74,427 cr.

Counting of votes for elections to Mumbai and 28 other municipal corporations, including Pune, was held on Friday, a day after the polling saw a 54.77 per cent turnout.

Coupled with a decent performance by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, the BJP is now in the driver's seat to govern the cash-rich civic body.

The high-stakes battle for BMC saw the Thackeray cousins reunite after two decades, only to see their hopes dashed as the results announced so far indicated.

In Pune and neighbouring Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporation polls, the BJP is heading towards a

massive victory, way ahead of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and NCP (SP) alliance.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has emerged as the man of the moment, with the BJP under his leadership surpassing its previous high of 82 seats in the 2017 BMC elections.

The success of BJP's 'Mission Mumbai' has now firmly established it as the key political force in the financial capital.

The result marks a significant shift in Mumbai's power structure. For years, the BMC was considered the invincible fortress of the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena.

With the BJP's victory, the narrative of Mumbai politics has moved from the traditional identity-based 'Marathi asmita' to a mandate for the BJP's plank of 'vikas' (development) and urban infrastructure.

Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Nitesh Rane said the BJP and Shiv Sena's strong showing in the Mumbai civic polls amounted to a clear mandate for its Hindutva pitch during the campaign, as the alliance surged ahead in the race.

"Jo Hindu ki baat karega wo Maharashtra pe raj karenge (Those who speak for Hindu interests will rule Ma-

harashtra)," Rane posted on X.

Shrikant Pangarkar, an accused in the 2017 murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, was elected a corporator in the Jalna Municipal Corporation, winning the elections as an independent candidate.

In Nagpur, home turf of CM Fadnavis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari, counting trends and results for the Nagpur Municipal Corporation suggest a near-repeat of the 2017 results, leaving the Congress struggling to make significant inroads despite an aggressive campaign.

The BJP is on course to surpass the 2017 tally of 108 seats in the 151-member Nagpur civic body.

The Congress won elections to the Latur Municipal Corporation, bagging a clear majority with over 40 seats in the 70-member body, leaving the BJP a distant second.

In a significant political turn of events ahead of the elections, Uddhav and Raj Thackeray reunited last month even as rival NCP factions forged a local alliance in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Elections to the 29 municipal corporations were held on January 15 after a gap of several years, with terms of

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Time for universities to solve society's toughest challenges: LG

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 16

Asserting that universities should become the powerhouse of ideas, LG Manoj Sinha today said it was also time for them to solve the toughest challenges faced by the society.

"Universities should become powerhouse of ideas, talent and ready to solve

real-world problems," he said in his address while chairing the 89th meeting of the University Council of University of Jammu at Lok Bhavan here.

The LG also said that it was time for universities to step-up and lead innovation, building skills and solving society's toughest challenges.

On the occasion the university council accorded in-

principal approval to various agenda items and proposals including inclusion of several provisions in align with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and UGC guidelines. These included adoption of Strategic Action Plan (2025-2030), introduction of Five Year Integrated UG-PG Programme in Mathematical Sciences, guidelines of the grant of duty leaves to teachers, constitution of Jammu University Animal Welfare Club, establishment of a centre for regional studies, culture, dialectics and emotional intelligence (CRCD&EI), change of nomenclature of B Tech (information tech

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Red Fort blast

Court sends 5 accused to jail, extends judicial custody of 2 others

NEW DELHI, JAN 16: A Delhi court on Friday sent five accused, including three doctors and a moulvi, to judicial custody till February 13 in the Red Fort blast case.

Special Judge Prashant Sharma allowed NIA plea seeking judicial custody of Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Shaheen Saeed, Dr Muzammil Ganaie, Maulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay and Jasir Bilal Wani.

The NIA arrested Wani in Srinagar on November 17 last year for providing technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the November 10 suicide blast near the Red Fort that claimed 15 lives and left several others injured.

The court also extended the judicial custody of two other accused - Yasir Ahmed Dar and Naseer Bilal Malla.

The federal agency said that Naseer had knowingly harboured Umar Nabi by providing him logistical support and also destroyed evidence related to the terrorist attack.

The NIA has arrested nine accused in the case so far.

On December 26 last year, the court had extended Dar's NIA custody for 10 days. He was said to have played an active role in the conspiracy behind the blast.

On December 18, NIA had arrested Dar, the ninth accused in the case. According to NIA, he is a close associate of Umar Nabi, the suicide bomber who was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10.

An active participant in the conspiracy, Dar had taken an oath to carry out

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Youth, entrepreneurs focused on solving real problems: Modi

Says Startup India now revolution

NEW DELHI, JAN 16: India's youth and entrepreneurs are focused on solving real problems, and the Startup India mission has become a revolution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday.

Speaking at a mega event marking a decade of the flagship programme 'Startup India', Modi said the ecosystem that started with four startups in 2014 has grown to over 125 active unicorns.

India is the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, with the startup tally now surpassing 2 lakh.

The Startup India momentum is accelerating, with unicorns launching IPOs and creating jobs, he said.

Indian youth is focused on solving real problems, and the Startup India mission has become a revolution, according to the PM.

Youth in tier-2 and 3 cities, even those in rural areas, are setting up their

own ventures, Modi said.

Today, 45 per cent of startups have either one woman director or partner, he added.

Risk-taking, which was discouraged, has become mainstream, he observed, lauding India's startup founders for their "impressive" confidence and ambitions.

"Those risk-taking ideas that were earlier considered fringe, have now become fashion," he said, adding that the country's youth does not want to work in comfort zones.

He said that just a short while ago he interacted with some of the participants working in agriculture, fintech, mobility, health, and sustainability, and stated that while their ideas impressed him, he was even more impressed by their confidence and ambitions.

Recalling that Startup India was started 10 years ago, Modi expressed satisfaction with the growth of the initiative and was happy to meet the youth.

Emphasising that the

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India slams Pak for misusing UN platforms to drive its divisive agenda

UNITED NATIONS, JAN 16: India called out Pakistan for misusing UN platforms to drive its "divisive agenda" after Islamabad's envoy raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the General Assembly.

Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Eldos Mathew Punnoose said that the right to self-determination must not be abused to encourage secession in pluralistic and democratic states.

"At a time when member states have to rise beyond their narrow considerations, Pakistan continues to misuse all platforms and processes in the UN to drive their divisive agenda," Punnoose said.

"This forum is no exception either and Pakistan made an unwarranted reference to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an integral and inalienable part of India," Punnoose said, while delivering the national statement at the UN General Assembly Plenary on 'Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organisation'.

"The right to self-determination is a fundamental principle enshrined in the UN Charter. However, this right must not be abused to encourage secession in pluralistic and democratic states. Though habituated, Pakistan would do well if they do not resort to base-

less allegations and falsehoods and portray a picture that is completely detached from reality," he said.

The strong retort by India came after Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad made a reference to Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks in the General Assembly.

Pakistan repeatedly raises the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations and its various platforms but fails to get any traction from the wider international community on the matter.

Punnoose, in his remarks, also stressed that the Global South has its

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Ladakh poised to emerge as premier winter sports hub: Kavinder

Himalayan Mail News KARGIL, JAN 16

Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today underlined the immense potential of ice hockey and other winter sports in Ladakh, stating that the region's unique climate, geography and resilient youth provide a natural advantage to emerge as a premier hub for winter sports in the country.

"Ice hockey in Ladakh is not merely a sport but also an integral part of the region's lifestyle and identity, shaped by its harsh climate and challenging terrain," he said while addressing the closing ceremony of 5th

LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2026 here.

In the men's final, ITBP defeated Ladakh Scouts 2-1 in a closely contested match. In the women's final, ITBP Women's Team emerged victorious against LWIHF with an impressive 7-3 scoreline.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from 10 men teams and five women teams, making the event a major celebration of winter sports in the region.

The LG lauded the determination, hard work and

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